



TALKING POINTS



Dwelling in Christ

Discover the Threefold Path of Spiritual Transformation

September 1, 2026 | \$19.99, 192 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1418-9

Jonathan R. Bailey is the cofounder of Dwell, an audio Bible app helping people rediscover the ancient practice of listening to Scripture. He writes Three Weekly Nights, a newsletter that helps readers participate more deeply in their transformation, and he also serves on the ministry team at Renovaré. Jonathan lives in Frisco, Texas, with his wife Kori and their three children.

An Ancient and Reliable Framework for Transformation

In *Dwelling in Christ*, Jonathan R. Bailey reintroduces the Threefold Way—an ancient, time-tested path of Christian spirituality. Moving beyond quick fixes and performance-based faith, this well-worn path offers a practical movement through three stages for growing in Christlikeness over a lifetime.

Aided by the wisdom of ancient monastics, contemporary theologians, and thoughtful reflections on his own spiritual journey, Bailey invites you to trade the illusion of control for the reality of love. In continuity with spiritual voices such as Dallas Willard and Richard Foster, this book offers a hopeful and practical way of life through retrieving a framework reaching back into the earliest centuries of the church.

In *Dwelling in Christ*, you will discover:

- How to walk the Threefold Way of purgation, illumination, and union
- How to move from performance faith to participation with God
- How to replace quick fixes with a lifelong process of transformation
- How to experience an ever-deepening friendship with God
- How to grow in Christlikeness
- How to release perfection for progress
- How to trade a transactional faith for a transformational relationship with God



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Q & A



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From Transactional Faith to Transformational Life in Christ

What motivated you to write this book?

Jonathan R. Bailey: For years, I lived in a transactional version of Christianity—walking aisles, raising hands, saying prayers—yet never experiencing the transformation I longed for. When I discovered the Threefold Way of purgation, illumination, and union, I finally had a map that made sense of the transformational journey I longed for. This book grew out of my own stumbling path from performance to participation, from formulas to formation. I wrote it to share an ancient and reliable framework that helps people move beyond quick fixes into a steady, grace-shaped life with God.

Briefly summarize the central thesis of your book. What is distinctive about this idea or your approach??

Jonathan: The central thesis is that Christian transformation is not a one-time transaction but a lifelong participation in grace, understood through three stages—purgation, illumination, and union. What makes this approach distinctive is its rootedness in the deep soil of Christian tradition while being written for modern readers who feel stuck in some version of transactional Christianity. By weaving personal narrative with ancient wisdom, the book offers both a framework and a companionable voice, helping readers see that transformation is possible, but it comes slowly, awkwardly, and relationally.

Who did you write this book for?

Jonathan: I wrote this book for people who feel disillusioned with the version of Christianity they've been handed. They've tried the programs, the conferences, the quick fixes—and still find themselves wondering: How do I actually follow Jesus? Is real transformation possible? Many are in their late twenties to fifties, faithful in church or small groups, but stuck in cycles of inspiration and burnout. They long for something deeper and steadier, a vision of life with God that makes sense in ordinary days.

What are the five main things you want readers to take away from your book?

Jonathan:

1. Christianity is not transactional; it is transformational—a lifelong apprenticeship in love.
2. The Threefold Way (purgation, illumination, and union) is a reliable and time-tested map for spiritual growth.
3. Spiritual practices are not techniques for performance but rhythms of participation that open us to grace.
4. Slow growth is real growth—transformation happens gradually, through both discipline and difficulty.
5. Union with God is not a final arrival but an eternal beginning—our destiny is to become love, forever.



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